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Title:

Speech notes for the Member for Semaphore (representing the South Australian Government) at the 124th annual assembly of the Congregational Union, Clayton Congregational Church, Norwood Parade, Norwood

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SPEECH NOTES FOR THE MEMBER FOR SEMAPHORE, MR. J.W. OLSON,
(REPRESENTING THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT), AT THE
124TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION, CLAYTON
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, NORWOOD PARADE, NORWOOD, THURSDAY
13TH JUNE, 1974, AT 7.30 P.M.

Mr. President Filby,

Reverend Principle G.L. Barnes,
(Federal President of the Congregational Union of Australia)

Bishop Renfrey
(Church of England)

His Grace, Archbishop James Gleeson, D.D.,
(Catholic Church)

Reverend J.D. Bentley
(Presbyterian Church)

Reverend W.J. Stafford
(President, Methodist Church)

Mr. H.J. Phelps,
(President, Baptist Church)

Lieutenant Colonel R.B. Everett,
(Divisional Commander Salvation Army)

Mr. Michael Sawyer,
(Executive Minister of the Congregational Union)

Dr. Bruce Eastick, Leader of the Opposition.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I AM VERY PLEASED AND HONOURED TO BE GIVEN THIS OPPORTUNITY ON BEHALF OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO EXTEND WARMEST FRATERNAL GREETINGS TO ALL ASSEMBLED FOR THE 124TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, WHICH, I AM SURE, WILL BE WHOLE HEARTEDLY ENDORSED BY THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, DR. BRUCE EASTICK.

IT IS HOPED THAT THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING THE ASSEMBLY FROM THE 13TH TO 17TH JUNE WILL BE FRUITFUL AND, AS IN THE PAST, CONTINUE TO HAVE BENEFICIAL RESULTS FOR MANKIND, RESIDING TODAY IN A SOCIETY OF RESTLESSNESS, MORAL CONFUSION AND SPIRITUAL HUNGER.

IT GIVES ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE WORK DONE BY YOUR OUTGOING PRESIDENT MR. B.J. FILBY, TO THANK HIM MOST WARMLY FOR THE DEVOTED EFFORTS WHICH HE HAS MADE IN THE FURTHERANCE OF CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES.

TO MRS. ELIZABETH FINNIGAN, YOUR INCOMING PRESIDENT, I EXTEND THE WARMEST CORDIAL WELCOME.

MRS. FINNIGAN, WILL DOUBTLESS BE RECORDED IN THE ANNALS OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH WITH DISTINCTION, AS A CREATOR OF HISTORY, IN BEING THE THIRD WOMAN TO BE ELECTED PRESIDENT, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE WIFE OF A FORMER PRESIDENT OCCUPIES THIS RESPONSIBLE POSITION.

I EXTEND TO MRS. FINNIGAN, MY CONGRATULATIONS, BEING FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT YOUR LEADERSHIP DURING THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY AND THROUGHOUT THE ENSUING YEAR WILL BE INSTRUMENTAL IN HAVING PEOPLE MAKE A GENUINE COMMITMENT BY PLACING CHRIST AT THE CENTRE, AND FURTHER UNITING THE CHURCH FOR WIDER FELLOWSHIP.

WHEN MENTION IS MADE OF UNITING THE CHURCH, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THIS WILL BE THE SECOND LAST ANNUAL ASSEMBLY, FOR IN 1976 THE CONGREGATIONAL, PRESBYTERIAN AND METHODIST CHURCHES WILL BE UNITING TO BE CALLED THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA.

UNITY IS A COMMON INTEREST, THE CHURCH AND THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARE UNITED IN THAT THEY ARE BOTH WORKING FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE, THE CHURCH IN A SPIRITUAL SENSE AND THE GOVERNMENT IN A MATERIAL SENSE, FOR EXAMPLE, FULL EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL SERVICE, EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND THE COMBINATION OF THESE INTERESTS CAN BE ACHIEVED BY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ALL PERSONS.

THE CHURCH GUIDES ITS CONGREGATION TOWARDS A BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF THE INDIVIDUAL, SO TOO THE GOVERNMENT IS WORKING ALONG THESE LINES IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE ENTRUSTED THE STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA TO THEIR CARE.

WE AS AN ACTIVIST GOVERNMENT WANT TO GIVE A NEW LIFE, AND A NEW MEANING, IN THIS NEW NATION, IN THE FORM OF LIBERTY, EQUALITY AND FRATERNITY.

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, I EXTEND THE VERY BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE. THANK YOU.



*With the Compliments
of
J. W. Olson, M.P.*

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